

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EDITORIALS ON RETURN OF CROWN OF ST STEPHEN

1. RETURN OF CROWN OF ST STEPHEN TO HUNGARY WILL HAVE BENE-
FICIAL IMPACT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF U.S.-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS,
ACCORDING TO NEPSZABADSAG EDITORIAL PUBLISHED DEC 17.

2. TRANSLATION OF EDITORIAL FOLLOWS:

"YESTERDAY'S PAPERS PUBLISHED AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE
ON THE RETURN OF THE HUNGARIAN CROWN AND REGALIA AND THIS
PLEASED HUNGARIAN PUBLIC OPINION. THIS IS OUR NATIONAL
RELIC, THE HISTORICAL SYMBOL OF STATEHOOD, AND ITS PLACE IS
IN HUNGARY. THIS IS WHY WE WELCOME THE DECISION OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ACCORDING TO WHICH THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE RETURN THE CROWN AND THE REGALIA TO THE
HUNGARIAN PEOPLE.

"THE HANDOVER DESERVES FESTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES. THE
CROWN RETURNS TO ITS LEGITIMATE OWNER CLOSING THE LAST
CHAPTER OF ITS VICISSITUDINOUS STORY. THIS IS INDI-
CATED BY THE FACT THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
HUNGARIAN SOCIETY WILL TAKE OVER THE JEWELS: REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE PRESIDENTIAL
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COUNCIL, RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT PERSONALITIES, HUN-
GARIAN CHURCH LEADERS, REPRESENTATIVES OF SOCIAL AND
MASS ORGANIZATIONS AND CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC LIFE.

"THROUGH CENTURIES THE CROWN WAS WRAPPED IN
MYSTERY BY THOSE WHO EXERCISED POWER ON ITS BEHALF.
NOW THAT THE CORONATION REGALIA RETURNS TO HUNGARY,

PEOPLE WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO SEE THEM -- THEIR NATIONAL RELICS, WHICH WERE ALWAYS LOCKED UP EARLIER -- FOR THE FIRST TIME. WE WILL PLACE THE CROWN AND THE CORONATION REGALIA ON PERMANENT DISPLAY IN AN APPROPRIATE LOCATION IN ORDER THAT IT MAY BE SEEN BY ANYBODY, HUNGARIANS AND FOREIGNERS ALIKE.

" WITH THE RETURN OF THE CROWN A PROBLEM IN HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS WILL BE FITTINGLY SETTLED. WE HAPPILY CONSIGN THIS PROBLEM TO THE PAST. THE FIRST THOUGH THAT WE CONSIDER IMPORTANT TO EXPRESS IN THIS CONNECTION IS THAT THE RETURN OF THE CROWN IS A WELCOME STEP. IT WILL SURELY HAVE A BENEFICIAL IMPACT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES AND STATES. IT CONFORMS TO THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI'S FINAL ACT. IN ADDITION, IT WILL STRENGTHEN THE INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE SO THAT DETENTE, PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND COOPERATION MAY FLOURISH."

3. SIMILAR EDITORIALS ALSO APPEARED DEC 17, IN MAGYAR NEMZET, MAGYAR HIRLAP, AND NEPSZAVA. ALL OF THESE REPEAT MAJOR THEME THAT RETURN OF CROWN IS A POSITIVE FACTOR IN IMPROVING AMERICAN-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS. THE THREE ARTICLES ALSO STATE THAT RETURN OF CROWN IS SIGN OF SUCCESS OF HUNGARY'S CONSTRUCTIVE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES, MAGYAR UNCLASSIFIED

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HIRLAP ADDING CONCEPT THAT THIS ALSO PART AND PARCEL OF DETENTE POLICY OF SOVIET UNION AND ALL SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. MAGYAR NEMZET, MAGYAR HIRLAP AND NEPSZAVA ALSO CREDIT U.S. WITH POSITIVE ACT IN SPIRIT OF HELSINKI. MAGYAR NEMZET ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH EXPRESSION OF THANKS TO PRESIDENT AND TO AMERICAN PEOPLE.

4. BOTH MAGYAR NEMZET AND BEPSZABADSAG HAVE LENGTHY FEATURE ARTICLES ON CROWN'S HISTORY. ARTICLES ARE ACCOMPANIED BY PHOTOS. NEPSZABADSAG ARTICLE, WHICH COVERS PERIOD TO ABOUT 1200, APPEARS TO BE FIRST OF A SERIES.

5. COMMENT. COVERAGE OF CROWN RETURN HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE AND PROMINENT. GOH IS MAKING EARNEST EFFORT TO EDUCATE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY YOUNGER PEOPLE, ABOUT CROWN. THUS, HUNGARIAN LEADERSHIP SEEMS INTENT ON PERPETUATING THE CROWN'S TRADITIONAL CHARACTER AS A SYMBOL OF THE HUNGARIAN NATION. WILGIS

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